



## Section 8: Career Planning

Section 8 includes brief look at career clusters, a nationally accepted method of exploring careers. A new Web site for the *CTE Career Planning Guide* is planned for the fall of 2003. This Web site will help students find connections between careers of interest and CTE course sequences.

If you are interested in middle school courses, many of which include career exploration, see Section 9.

If you are interested in career awareness at the elementary school level, see Section 10.

## Section 8: Career Planning

To help students investigate careers and design their courses of study to advance their career goals, the Office of Career and Technical Education in Virginia has adopted the nationally accepted structure of career clusters, career pathways, and sample career specialties or occupations. Detailed information about the States' Career Clusters Initiative appears at <http://www.careerclusters.org>.

### Career Clusters and Common Core of Knowledge and Skills

Each of the 16 career clusters has a common core of knowledge and skills required for career success in all the occupations included in the cluster. This core of knowledge and skills consists of the following areas, which may require different applications in different clusters. (For example, the academic foundations and technical skills needed by architects differ from those needed by health care professionals.)

- Academic foundations
- Communication
- Problem solving and critical thinking
- Information technology
- Systems
- Safety, health, and environment
- Leadership and teamwork
- Ethics and legal responsibilities
- Employability and career development
- Technical skills

### Identification of Career Clusters

The 16 career clusters are as follows:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications
- Business, Management, and Administration
- Education and Training
- Finance
- Government and Public Administration
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, and Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing, Sales, and Service
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

### Connection of Career Pathways and Occupations to CTE Courses

Each career pathway within a cluster offers many occupational specialties. Students may choose CTE and academic courses that will help them explore or prepare for a group of careers (a cluster), a pathway (group of careers within a cluster), or an occupational specialty (single career).

The charts that follow show two sample clusters and their associated pathways, sample occupational specialties for one pathway, and a sample sequence of applicable courses. The sequence applies to the pathways and occupations shown in italics.

| Cluster                                  | Pathways                                 | Sample Occupational Specialties | Sample CTE Course Sequence  |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources | Food Products and Processing Systems     | <i>Plant Breeder/Geneticist</i> | Horticulture Sciences ANR8034 and one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse Plant Production and Management ANR8035</li> <li>• Landscaping ANR8036</li> <li>• Floriculture ANR8036</li> <li>• Floral Design I ANR8055</li> <li>• Specialty Horticulture Arts ANR8037</li> </ul> |
|  | <i>Plant Systems</i>                     | Soil and Water Specialist       |   |
|  | Animal Systems                           | Certified Crop Adviser          |   |
|  | Power, Structural, and Technical Systems | <i>Botanist</i>                 |   |
|  | Natural Resource Systems                 | Tree Surgeon                    |   |
|  | Environmental Service Systems            | Education/Extension Specialist  |   |
|  | Agribusiness Systems                     | Golf Course Superintendent      |   |
|  |  | <i>Greenhouse Manager</i>       |   |

| Cluster        | Pathways  | Sample Occupational Specialties  | Sample CTE Course Sequence  |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| Human Services | <i>Early Childhood Development and Services</i> | <i>Director, Childcare Facility</i><br><i>Childcare Worker</i><br><i>Nanny</i><br><i>Preschool Teacher</i><br><i>Teacher Assistant</i><br><i>Parent Educator</i> | Early Childhood Education I FCS8285 <b>and</b> a combination of one or more of the following courses equivalent to a total of two 36-week courses:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education II FCS8286</li> <li>• Family Relations FCS8223*/FCS8225</li> <li>• Individual Development FCS8209*/FCS8210</li> <li>• Parenting FCS8231</li> <li>• Introduction to Early Childhood Education FCS8234</li> <li>• GRADS FCS8213 (with cooperative education)</li> </ul> <i>*18-week course</i> |
|                | Counseling and Mental Health Services           |  |   |
|                | Family and Community Services                   |  |   |
|                | Personal Care Services                          |  |   |
|                | Consumer Services                               |  |   |

### Career Planning Guide

The *CTE Career Planning Guide* is being revised to reflect the new national structure of career families. Look for this new Web site in the fall of 2003. Users will be able to connect careers and courses in ways that will enhance career exploration, planning, and preparation.

### Other Career Resources

Check out the following resources for career planning by going to the Virginia Career Resource Network at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/CTE/>.

- CareerConnect (Virginia's One Stop Workforce System)
- Guide to Career Prospects in Virginia
- r u ready
- Virginia Career Resource Network
- Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
- Virginia Employment Commission
- Mid-Atlantic Guide to Information on Careers (MAGIC)
- Virginia's Electronic Labor Market Access System (VELMA)
- Virginia VIEW Career Information